

We Claim:

1 1. A system in a vehicle including a plurality of
2 components comprising:
3 a display for displaying a plurality of items each
4 representing a respective one of the components, the
5 displayed items being arranged on the display in
6 substantially the same relation to one another as the
7 components represented thereby in the vehicle;
8 an interface for selecting at least one of the
9 items; and
10 a processor for operating the component
11 represented by the selected item.

1 2. The system of claim 1 wherein said vehicle
2 comprises an automobile.

1 3. The system of claim 1 wherein said display
2 comprises a liquid crystal display (LCD).

1 4. The system of claim 1 wherein said interface
2 includes an indicator device for selecting the at least one
3 of the items.

1 5. The system of claim 4 wherein said indicator
2 device comprises a mouse device.

1 6. The system of claim 1 wherein said interface
2 includes a touch-screen capability.

1 7. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes a seat.

1 8. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes a window.

1 9. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes a windshield wiper.

1 10. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes a mirror.

1 11. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes a vent.

1 12. The system of claim 1 wherein said component
2 includes an audio system.

3 13. A system in a vehicle comprising:
4 a display for displaying a first item indicative
5 of the vehicle, and at least a second item indicative of an
6 object;
7 a processor for defining a zone on the display,
8 said zone including the first item but excluding the second
9 item, said zone representing an area in which the vehicle
10 is; and
11 an output for generating a signal when the object
12 is detected to be within the area.

1 14. The system of claim 13 wherein the object is
2 a second vehicle.

1 15. The system of claim 13 wherein the zone is
2 defined as a function of at least a relative distance of the
3 vehicle from the object.

